

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 19, 30, and 34 have been cancelled, claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 21, 27, 31-33, and 35-38 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18, 20-29, 31-33, and 35-38 are pending and under consideration.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

In the Office Action, at page 11, item 6, the Examiner indicated that claims 9-15, 32, and 35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9, 15, 32, and 35 have been rewritten in independent form, and that claims 9-15, 32, and 35 are now allowable.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS:

In the Office Action, at page 2, item 1, the Examiner objected to claims 27 and 30. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 30 has been cancelled, and that the amendment of claim 27 overcomes the Examiner's objection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112:

In the Office Action, at page 2, item 2, the Examiner rejected claims 33, 37, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for the reasons set forth therein. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments of claims 33, 37, and 38 overcome the Examiner's rejection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

In the Office Action, at page 3, item 3, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 16-19, 21-30, 33-34, and 36-38 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Innoue et al. (U.S. 6,382,621 – hereinafter Innoue). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

Claims 19, 30, and 34 have been cancelled.

Amended, independent claim 1 recites: "...a lever shaking unit which shakes the lever to intermittently contact a side of the paper transferred by the pickup roller, the lever shaking unit

comprising a lever shaft installed on the frame, a shaking plate extending from the lever shaft, and a shaker installed on the frame and intermittently contacting the shaking plate to shake the lever....”

Amended, independent claim 21 recites: “...a lever shaking unit, comprising a shaft movably installed on the frame, a plate extending from the lever shaft, and a motor, selectively contacting the plate to rotate the lever shaft; and a lever disposed on the paper feeding path, installed on the shaft, and having a contact surface selectively contacting the paper transferred by the pickup roller to apply a second paper feeding resistance force to the paper in correspondence with the shaft rotation.”

Amended, independent claim 36 recites: “...a lever movably disposed on the paper feeding path to selectively apply a second paper feeding resistance force to the paper fed by the pickup roller, the lever being installed on a lever shaft rotatably installed on the frame; a plate extending from the lever shaft; and a power source controlling the lever, by intermittently contacting the plate, to selectively move with respect to the paper fed by the pickup roller to contact the paper.”

Amended, independent claim 37 recites: “...a pickup roller installed in the printer; an intermittent force applying unit, comprising a shaft installed on the printer, a plate extending from the shaft, and a contactor installed on the printer and intermittently contacting the plate to rotate the shaft; and a lever installed on the shaft and intermittently applying a friction force, under influence of the intermittent force applying unit, to a rear side of a sheet of paper picked up by the pickup roller, to prevent the paper from not being picked-up, and prevent double feeding of the paper.”

And amended, independent claim 38 recites: “...intermittently applying a friction force, via a force applying unit, to a rear side of a sheet of paper picked up by a pickup roller installed in the printer, to prevent the paper from not being picked-up, and prevent double feeding of the paper, wherein the force applying unit comprises a shaft installed on the printer, a plate extending from the shaft a contactor installed on the printer and intermittently contacting the plate to rotate the shaft, and a lever rotating with the shaft to intermittently apply the friction force.”

Applicant respectfully submits that the Innoue neither discloses nor suggests the claimed invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 21, and 36-38.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form.

Amended, independent claim 8 recites: "...a lever shaft which is placed at the side of the stripper and rotatably installed on the frame of the printer, wherein the lever is fixed on the lever shaft, and the lever shaking unit shakes the lever shaft so that the lever is shaken...."

In contrast, in Innoue, the control cam 10 never contacts rotation shaft 9, 41, but rather, contacts the movable separation slope surface 37, 8 directly, causing the movable separation slope surface 37, 8 to rotate.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Innoue neither discloses nor suggests the claimed invention as recited in independent claim 8.

Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of claim 19 has been incorporated into independent claim 16.

Amended, independent claim 16 recites: "...wherein the second paper feeding resistance force includes a friction force intermittently applied to the side of the second sheet of paper by a lever which is installed to be shaken on the paper path."

In contrast, in Innoue, throughout rotation of the separation control cam 10, the movable separation slope surface 37, 8, constantly contact all of the sheets S, except the uppermost sheet S1, which, as shown in FIG. 3, is separated from the movable separation slope surface 37, 8 by a distance G due to the pressure of the feeding roller 2. Thus, the movable separation slope surface 37, 8 does not intermittently apply the friction force to the side of the second sheet of paper.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Innoue neither discloses nor suggests the claimed invention as recited in independent claim 16.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 8, 16, 21, and 36-38 patentably distinguish over the cited art, and should be allowable for at least the above-mentioned reasons. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-7, 17, 18, 20, 22-29, 31, and 33, which variously depend from independent claims 1, 16, or 21, should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 16, and 21, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

In the Office Action, at page 9, item 4, the Examiner rejected claims 3, 5, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Innoue. The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

In the Office Action, at page 10, item 5, the Examiner rejected claims 6, 7, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Innoue in view of Kan et al., (US 5, 443,251 – hereinafter Kan). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 3, 5-7, 20, and 31, which variously depend from independent claims 1, 16, or 21, should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 16, and 21, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

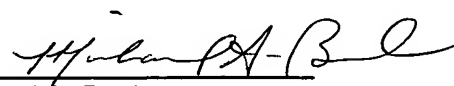
If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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